

Message Text

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R 271607Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL TAKES TOUGH STAND ON ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA (JAN 26) CARRIES A HARD-HITTING EDITORIAL ON ANGOLA BY E. VLADIMIROV WHICH THROWS ICE-WATER ON THE COALITION IDEA, CONDEMNS ALLEGED WESTERN STRONG-ARM TACTICS AT THE OAU SUMMIT, CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF IMPERIALIST AND RACIST FORCES, AND, IN GENERAL, REFLECTS NO GIVE IN SOVIET ANGOLA POLICY. END SUMMARY.

W2. ALTHOUGH VLADIMIROV'S HARD-LINE EDITORIAL CONTAINS MUCH ARGUMENTATION WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE, THERE ARE A FEW INNOVATIVE WRINKLES. FOLLOWING THE USUAL ATTACKS ON IMPERIALIST AND RACIST AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, VLADIMIROV TURNS TO THE EVENTS AT THE OAU SUMMIT AND EMPHASIZES THAT IT WAS THE ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA WHICH "DISCREDITED" THE EFFORTS
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OF THE FNLA AND UNITA, AND WHICH "THREATENED" THE PRESTIGE OF THE US IN AFRICA. VLADIMIROV STRONGLY CONDEMNS

THE AMERICAN AND WESTERN PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MPLA, AND CLAIMS THAT THE CALL FOR AN "AFRICAN SOLUTION" TO THE PROBLEM BASED ON THE IDEA OF A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY" WAS NOT FEASIBLE. ACCORDING TO VLADIMIROV, A SOLUTION BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF A COALITION "DID NOT HAVE A REALISTIC BASIS," DUE TO THE "ANTI-NATIONALIST" POLICIES OF THE TWO LEADERS OF THE "SPLITTIST GROUPS". VLADIMIROV ADDS, "ESSENTIALLY THIS PLAN REPRESENTS A LOOP-HOLE FOR THOSE WHO WERE REJECTED BY THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, AND WHO NOW INTEND TO SNEAK INTO POWER THROUGH THE BACK DOOR."

3. VLADIMIROV DIRECTS SOME OF HIS HEAVY ARTILLERY AT ALLEGED PRESSURE TACTICS USED BEFORE AND DURING THE ADDIS ABABA MEETING. HE LEADS WITH THE STANDARD CHARGE THAT THE SCHAUFELE MISSION WAS AIMED AT STEMMING THE GROWING MOVEMENT FOR RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA REGIME, BUT ADDS THE ALLEGATIONS THAT SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE THREATENED WITH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RETALIATION IF THEY RECOGNIZED THE MPLA REGIME. (ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY, THE CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT SCHUAFELE WAS THE SOURCE OF THESE THREATS.) ROBERTO AND SAVIMBI, VLADIMIROV CONTINUES, TRIED TO DENY ANY CONNECTION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT WHEN THIS DID NOT FLY, THEY RESORTED TO "TERRORIST TACTICS" BY STATING THAT THE MPLA WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH PEACE IN ANGOLA. VLADIMIROV ALSO CLAIMS THAT IN AN EFFORT TO APPLY DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON (UNSPECIFIED) AFRICAN COUNTRIES, A DETACHMENT OF AMERICAN WARSHIPS WAS DIRECTED TOWARD ANGOLA IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR. SUCH TACTICS WORKED ON SOME COUNTRIES, VLADIMIROV CONTINUES, THUS CAUSING THE OAU'S INABILITY TO REACH A DEFINITE DECISION AT ADDIS ABABA.

4. IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT, THE AUTHOR STATES, PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN AFRICA ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITION IN ORDER TO WITHSTAND THE CONTINUED INTERVENTION BY THE IMPERIALISTS. IN THE FACE OF MASSIVE WESTERN PRESSURE, HE GOES ON, THIS GROUP HAS DECISIVELY CALLED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ANGOLA, CONFIDENTIAL
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AND FOR THE "IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL RACIST AND IMPERIALIST FORCES." IN ADDITION, MANY AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION "TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE DURING THIS STRUGGLE, VLADIMIROV CONCLUDES.

5. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE WE HAVE SEEN ON ANGOLA SINCE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. VLADIMIROV'S EXTREMELY TOUGH STAND SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW HAS NO INTENTION OF MODIFYING ITS ANGOLA POLICY. IN FACT, THE

IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY THE ARTICLE IS THAT THE MATCH IS
REALLY OVER, AND ALL THAT REMAINS IS A ONESIDES END-
GAME, WITH MOSCOW TWO ROOKS UP.
STOESSEL

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